

### **Remarks**

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration of the outstanding office action is respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a page entitled "Version of Markings to Show Changes Made."

New claims 23-26 have been added. Claims 10, 12-17 and 19-26 now remain in this application. Claims 1-9 have been previously withdrawn from consideration. Claims 11 and 18 have been previously cancelled.

#### **1. Drawings**

Applicant's attorney thanks Examiner for the indication that the drawings submitted are acceptable.

#### **2. New Claims Allowable**

Claims 23-26 are allowable because the prior art does not teach or suggest that a pre-optimized tip-shape should be formed in a heating furnace to include a tip taper ratio, defined as tip length divided by radius change over the tip length, of between about 5 to about 12.

Claims 24-26 are allowable for at least the above reasons.

#### **3. Conclusion**

Based upon the above amendments, remarks, and papers of record, Applicant believes the pending claims of the above-captioned application are in allowable form and patentable over the prior art of record. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending claims and a prompt Notice of Allowance thereon.

Applicant believes that a one month extension of time is necessary to make this Response timely. Should Applicant be in error, Applicant respectfully requests that the Office grant such time extension pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) as necessary to make this Reply timely, and hereby authorizes the Office to charge any necessary fee or surcharge with respect to said time extension to the deposit account of the undersigned firm of attorneys, Deposit Account 03-3325.

Please direct any questions or comments to Randall S. Wayland at (607) 974-0463.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 3/3/03

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VERSION OF MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims

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Please add new claims 23-26 as follows:

23. A method for manufacturing an optical fiber preform, comprising the steps of:  
heating a consolidated optical fiber preform within a chamber of a heating  
furnace to allow a gob to drop under the influence of heat and gravity and form a pre-  
optimized tip shape on a lower end of the preform having a tip shape includes a tip  
taper ratio, defined as tip length divided by radius change over the tip length, of  
between about 5 to about 12, and  
transferring the preform to a draw furnace of a draw apparatus.
24. The method of Claim 23 wherein the step of heating includes heating the heating  
furnace to a temperature between about 1800 °C and 2000 °C.
25. The method of Claim 23 wherein the step of heating includes heating the heating  
furnace to a temperature between about 1900 °C and 1950 °C.
26. The method of claim 23 wherein the pre-optimized tip shape includes a tip taper  
having a ratio of between about 6 to about 9.